

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12: Canceled.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pre-fiber gel composition, comprising consisting essentially of:  
providing at least one amide-based compound;  
providing at least 15 weight percent of at least one lactam gelling agent; and  
mixing the at least one amide-based polymer and the at least one lactam gelling agent such that there is sufficient viscosity and sufficient cohesiveness in the composition so that it can be spun into a fiber.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one amide-based polymer comprises a nylon compound.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the nylon compound comprises nylon-6.
16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one lactam gelling agent comprises caprolactam.
17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one lactam gelling agent comprises less than 50 weight percent of the composition.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one lactam gelling agent comprises less than 40 weight percent of the composition.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one lactam gelling agent comprises less than 30 weight percent of the composition.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one lactam gelling agent comprises less than 20 weight percent of the composition.

Claims 21-22: Canceled.

23. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein mixing comprises blending.

24. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein mixing comprises extruding.

Claims 25-26: Canceled.

27. (Original) A spun fiber formed using the method of claim 13.

28. (Original) A carpet product comprising the spun fiber of claim 23.

29. (Currently Amended) A pre-fiber gel composition, consisting essentially of:

at least one amide-based polymer; and

at least one lactam gelling agent, wherein the gel composition has sufficient viscosity and sufficient cohesiveness upon the mixing of the at least one amide-

based polymer and the at least one lactam gelling agent that the composition can be spun into a fiber.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pre-fiber gel composition, consisting essentially of:

providing at least one amide-based compound;

providing at least one lactam gelling agent; [[and]]

mixing the at least one amide-based polymer and the at least one lactam gelling agent such that there is sufficient viscosity and sufficient cohesiveness in the composition so that it can be spun into a fiber;

heating the composition; and

removing at least part of the at least one lactam gelling agent after the mixing step.